GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

1892-1942

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/goldenanniversar00firs

GOLDEN

Anniversary

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

North Wilkesboro, N. C.

October 19-25, 1942

1892 - 1942

The Wings of Memory

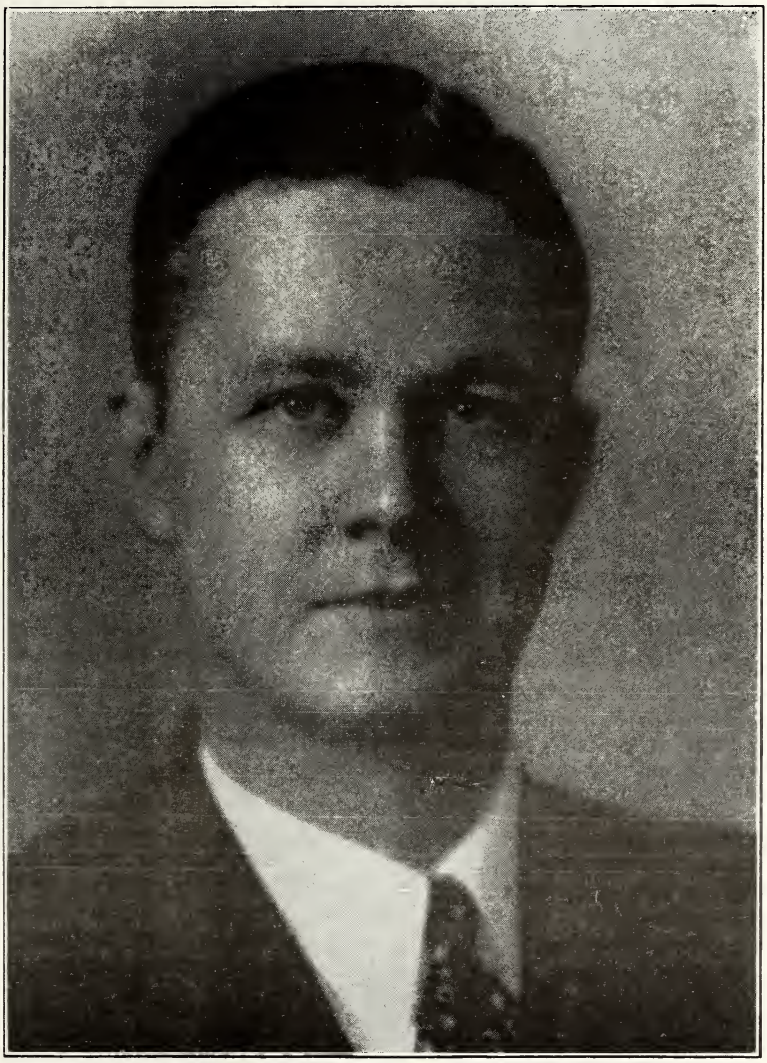
THIS week marks the end of an era in the life of our church. On the wings of memory we go back swiftly through the years. We try to visualize conditions in that early day when fifteen people of Christian consecration and vision united their efforts to establish a Baptist church in the village of North Wilkesboro.

Their courage and resourcefulness were rewarded. For, through the years, the membership of the church increased in number; ministers served the church loyally and well; and finally a spacious House of Worship was completed.

Today, while meditation brings these early years very close to us, and as we are reminded of the faith, the discipline, the struggles, and the love which caused this church to grow and prosper through the decades, may the church members of the present generation acknowledge with humble gratitude their noble spiritual heritages from the past, and pledge themselves anew to keep faith with those who have pioneered in the establishment of our Church.

"Christ is the Head of the Church . . . Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it."

Ephesians 5:23, 25



JOHN W. KINCHELOE, JR.

Tenth in the line of ministers who have served this Church, the present pastor shares the joy of the many members and friends who celebrate this Golden Anniversary season.

To all who have a part on the program for our Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, the First Baptist Church desires to express its thanks and deep appreciation; and to all who attend the services is extended a sincere and cordial welcome.

Charter Members of the Church

The First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro was organized December 17, 1892, by the fifteen Charter Members whose names appear below. To them we dedicate this page with deepest gratitude, and thank God upon every remembrance of them.

MRS. E. F. STAFFORD
(Nee Mary Octavia Church)

Mrs. Stafford is the only surviving Charter Member who is still enrolled in the Membership of the First Baptist Church

M. A. ABSHER
N. J. ABSHER
WM. M. ABSHER
JANE BYRD
A. M. CHURCH
HARVEY CHURCH
MARY L. CHURCH
LILLY CHURCH
SUSANNA CHURCH
AUGUSTA E. FORESTER
W. P. HORTON
A. M. McGEE
MARY C. McGEE
H. B. PARKER, JR.

"To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high."

Fiftieth Anniversary Program

October 19-25, 1942

MONDAY—7:30 p. m.

"An Appreciation of the Church"
Rev. Harry Y. Gamble
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Statesville, N. C.

TUESDAY—7:30 p. m.

"The Church and Christian Education"
Rev. J. D. McCready
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Morganton, N. C.

WEDNESDAY—7:30 p. m.

"The Church and Its World Out-Reach"
Rev. Eugene Olive
Pastor, Wake Forest Baptist Church, Wake Forest, N. C.

THURSDAY—7:30 p. m.

"The Church In a World at War."
Rev. Eugene Eller
Pastor, Crawford Avenue Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga.

FRIDAY—7:30 p. m.

"The Church and Evangelism"
Rev. Marshall Mott, D. D.
Pastor, Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C.

SUNDAY—11:00 a. m.

"Hats Off to the Past—Coats Off to the Future"
Rev. John W. Kincheloe, Jr.
Pastor, First Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

SUNDAY—7:30 p. m.

Union Worship Service
Greetings by Rev. W. M. Cooper and Rev. A. C. Waggoner
"The Church and the Community"
Judge Johnson J. Hayes, of Wilkesboro, N. C.

A Brief History of the First Baptist Church

North Wilkesboro, N. C.

On Saturday, December 17,—seven days before Christmas—in the year 1892, a presbytery consisting of Rev. C. S. Cashwell of Mocksville, N. C., I. T. Prevette of Wilkesboro, N. C., and J. S. Forester of North Wilkesboro, met with others in the printing office in the rear of the Opera House on the corner of 5th and D. Streets for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church. Rev. C. S. Cashwell was elected chairman and J. S. Forester, clerk. The following presented letters from other churches and were admitted as Charter Members of the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro: Augusta E. Forester, H. B. Parker, Jr., Dr. W. P. Horton, Jane Byrd, Wm. M. Absher, N. J. Absher, M. A. Absher, A. M. Church, Susanna Church, Mary L. Church, Octavia Church, Harvey Church, Lilly Church, A. M. McGee, and Mary C. McGee. The Church Covenant and Articles of Faith were adopted, and the hand of fellowship was extended by the presbytery. Immediately after the organization, Mr. Forester, who had been a member of the presbytery, presentd his letter and was received into the membership of the newly organized church. A. M. Church, H. B. Parker, Jr., and W. P. Horton, were elected trustees.

The First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro is a lineal descendant of the old "Mulberry Field Meeting House," the first church to be organized in Wilkes County, and the mother of many later churches throughout the county. The Mulberry Church was situated near the center of what later became the town of Wilkesboro, and was a center of worship for the pioneer settlers in this section.

Unfortunately, most of the early church records of the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro were lost during the disastrous Yadkin River flood of 1916. However, by piecing together various bits of information, it is possible to reconstruct a partial picture of the early struggles and progress of the church.

After the church's initial organization, the enrollment was evidently soon enlarged by the addition of new members. The town of North Wilkesboro was only two years old—and there was no other church established as yet in the community. The Methodist and Presbyterian churches both organized in 1893, the year following that in which the Baptists met for organization. An early record indicates that it was not long before a Building Committee was appointed, the committee consisting of A. M. Church, Wm. M. Absher, A. M. McGee, F. A. Mayberry, and L. A. Jarvis. A. M. Church, according to the record, went into the woods and selected choice timber for the building which was soon erected. The building was placed on ground which was donated for the purpose by the early "Land Company" of North Wilkesboro, and the location was at what is now 6th and F. Streets. This frame edifice was used by the steadily growing membership until the year 1912, when the present brick building was first occupied.

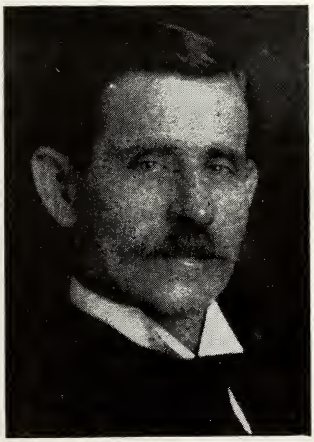
First Baptist Church Building
1893 - 1912

Rev. W. R. Bradshaw was extended an invitation to become the first pastor of the church. He accepted the call and began his

ministry on January 7, 1893—less than a month after the organization of the church. His pastorate continued until December 15, 1904. This was the longest single pastorate in the history of the church. According to Mrs. E. F. Stafford, the only Charter Member who is enrolled in the church membership in 1942, Mr. Bradshaw was a young man when he began his pastorate here. He also had the charge of Baptist churches in Moravian Falls, Wilkesboro, and Elkin. He preached at North Wilkesboro one Sunday a month. Baptisms were conducted in Reddies River just below where the town water plant is now located, and in the Yadkin River just above where the "lower" river bridge is now situated. The presence of a Woman's Missionary Society in the church at this early date indicates that this has been truly a "Missionary Baptist Church" from the beginning, and also that women have been given a voice and worthy opportunity in church organizations and programs. Mrs. Stafford says that Mr. Bradshaw continued to live at Moravian Falls for a while after he became pastor at North Wilkesboro. He later moved to North Wilkesboro and occupied the parsonage which the church procured for him. This was located on F. Street near Fourth. It is interesting to note that this same parsonage building is being used at the present time as an office by the Wilkes Hosiery Mills.

W. R. BRADSHAW
1893 - 1904

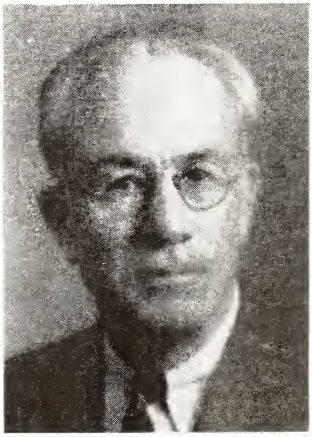
Mr. Bradshaw offered an able ministry to the people, and the church progressed well under his leadership. Other succeeding pastors have built on the careful foundations which he laid. Because he was the first pastor of the church, and because of the length of his pastorate here, he was one of the most beloved of all the ministers who have ever served the church. He died March 27, 1942, just a few months before the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the North Wilkesboro Church of which he was the first pastor.



W. F. STALEY
1905 - 1908
1918 - 1921

On January 29, 1905, Rev. W. F. Staley assumed the pastoral responsibility of the church. He had been pastor at Black Mountain, N. C. Mrs. E. F. Stafford's sister, Mrs. J. O. Gragg, who had recently moved from Black Mountain to North Wilkesboro, recommended the name of Mr. Staley to the church here. Mr. Staley had the unique experience of not only continuing this pastoral relationship until December 1, 1908, but also of becoming pastor again in a second ministry in North Wilkesboro from March 3, 1918, till August 19, 1921. In Resolutions recorded in the Minutes of our church, it is stated that "Brother Staley is a man possessing gifts as a preacher. His sermons are real food to the hungry soul. Our church has been greatly strengthened while he was with us." Mr. Staley is remembered not only for his pulpit sermons, but also for his frequent visitation in the homes of the church members. It is said that he and the Methodist minister often made their pastoral calls together. Older members of our

church will recall that it was during Mr. Staley's first pastorate here that the Second Baptist Church was organized by the First Church. During his second pastorate, the First Church organized the Gordon Baptist Church. These achievements aided Baptist growth and development throughout the community. Closing his pastoral connection with the North Wilkesboro Church in 1921, Mr. Staley moved to Ohio where he became pastor of a church in Dayton.



C. M. ROCK
1909 - 1911

The third pastor of our church was Rev. C. M. Rock. He began his ministry here on January 1, 1909. Mr. Rock assumed the difficult task of leading the church in a building program. To this task he lent an aggressive personality and a steadfast purpose, and his perseverance over difficulties was finally rewarded by bringing the building program toward completion. Our present brick building, commodious in size and well-proportioned in design, is largely the result of his vision and leadership. It is recorded in the minutes of the church that at a business meeting held about three months after the beginning of Mr. Rock's ministry in North Wilkesboro, "Pastor C. M. Rock produced a sketch of the proposed new church, and it was moved and carried that the pastor be instructed to have plans drawn in accordance with the sketch." The following Building Committee was appointed: W. H. Church, E. M. Blackburn, C. C. Gambill, W. B. Carlton, J. S. Forester, J. I. Myers, H. W. Horton, W. P. Horton, E. F. Stafford, and C. M. Rock.

The corner stone of the new building was laid on August 15, 1910. Inside the corner stone was placed a Bible, list of the names of Charter Members, early history of the church, etc. Principal addresses for the occasion were made by Rev. W. F. Staley and Rev. W. R. Bradshaw.

Mr. Rock closed his ministry here before the new church building was fully completed and ready for the opening service. His resignation took effect on

Laying Corner Stone of New Building, August 15, 1910

March 26, 1911. On May 10, 1911, the Trustees reported a sale of the old church building for fifteen hundred dollars. The congregation continued to worship in the old church, though, until the new brick building was ready to be opened to the public. During this period, Rev. L. B. Padgett, of Norfolk, Virginia, and Rev. W. F. Staley conducted revival services at the church. On May 28, 1911, the day that the series of meetings came to a close, Mr. Padgett was called to be pastor of the church. He remained with the church until December 1, 1911. During this brief pastorate, Mr. Padgett was well-liked by the people and his messages attracted many people to church. He was an ardent believer in Missions, he himself having previously done missionary work in Africa. He possessed a fine speaking voice, and he was a forceful preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

L. B. PADGETT
1911 — May to December

It was not until the beginning of January, 1912, that the first service was held in the new building. A copy of "The North Wilkesboro Advance" dated January 9, 1912, and in the present possession of Mrs. Mattie Darlington, describes the snowy season when the opening service was held by saying: "With a soft fluffy coat of pure white over the face of the earth, giving everything a coat of purity, the congregation of the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro held their first services in their splendid new church building. For two years the members and friends of the congregation have struggled with the heavy financial difficulties always attendant upon an undertaking of this kind, and it was through the undaunted faith of the members of this church that a structure that is an honor to God, and a credit to the denomination, as well as to the town and community, has been finished and occupied in so short a time." The same news article states further that a new minister, Rev. J. Manning Dunnaway of Lumber Bridge, N. C., had just assumed responsibility as pastor of the local congregation. Mr. Dunnaway was about fifty years of age when he began his work in North Wilkesboro, January 1, 1912. He had previously served churches in Wilson, N. C., and several

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—SNOW SCENE

towns in Virginia. Mr. Dunnaway's ministry at the First Church in North Wilkesboro was marked by a large number of baptisms and additions to the church, and by emphasis on church gifts to various missionary objects. He continued his services with the North Wilkesboro Church until Sept. 15, 1913.

J. MANNING DUNNAWAY
1912 - 1913

Over six months elapsed before the next pastor was secured. During the interim, Rev. John W. Ham, evangelist of Atlanta, Georgia, conducted a series of meetings in the church. On April 8, 1914, Rev. Edward Long of Marion, N. C., began his ministry here. Members of the pulpit committee who had corresponded with him were: Dr. W. P. Horton, E. M. Blackburn, C. C. Gambill, E. E. Eller, and C. P. Burchette. Mr. Long remained with the church until August 1, 1917. During his pastorate here, successful revival meetings were conducted by Rev. W. R. Bradshaw, and Dr. Calvin B. Waller, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Asheville, N. C. The church records tell of numerous new members received during Mr. Long's ministry and indicate that the church experienced good progress during his residence in North Wilkesboro.

EDWARD LONG
1914 - 1917

After Brother Staley's second pastorate from March 3, 1918, to August 19, 1921, Rev. W. L. Griggs became pastor on June 4, 1922. In Resolutions of Appreciation, printed in a local newspaper during the third year of Mr. Griggs' pastorate here, it was stated: "We as a church and Sunday school feel moved to make public acknowledgment of the blessings which his ministry has brought to us and to the Baptist cause throughout the Association and County. We desire to express our appreciation of his wise leadership, his untiring service, and we wish to call to the attention of our entire membership and congregation our great fortune in having as our pastor a man so generally recognized as an outstanding leader, respected and loved by all with whom he comes in contact." After a very successful ministry here, Mr. Griggs concluded his work in this community on March 31, 1926.

W. L. GRIGGS
1922 - 1926

From July 18, 1926, to November 1, 1932, Rev. George G. Reeves was pastor of our church. This period includes "1929," the year of extreme national post-war prosperity, and also includes '31 and '32, the years of severest national economic "depression." However, the church suc-

cessfully weathered the storms of the "depression" years. Printed bulletins for the period when Mr. Reeves was pastor, indicate a thorough organization of church and Sunday school, and generous gifts to a variety of missionary objects. Young people's work, through the B. Y. P. U., was well organized, and received encouraging emphasis.

GEORGE G. REEVES
1926 - 1932

Rev. Eugene Olive became pastor of the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro, January 22, 1933. Mr. Olive had previously held successful pastorates in other North Carolina churches, and his work in North Wilkesboro was of high quality and lasting impression. His emphasis on Christian stewardship and Missions resulted in a thorough organization of the W. M. U. in our church, and in generous church gifts to various benevolences and missionary causes; his capable leadership in music was largely responsible for the development of one of the best choirs in the church's history; his church bulletins were original, attractive, and very systematically arranged; his preaching was the result of careful preparation as well as deep spiritual impulse, and his sermons were of uniform high quality and thoughtful challenge. Mr. Olive's work was not limited to the local church alone. His ministry extended in many helpful ways to Baptist work throughout Wilkes County, and he served in important capacities in Baptist work in our State. Mr. Olive's eight-year pastorate was terminated on August 25, 1940, when he left to become pastor of the Baptist Church at Wake Forest, N. C.

EUGENE OLIVE
1933 - 1940

Laymen, as well as pastors, have given themselves loyally to the work of our church during its Fifty Years of growth and service. It is interesting to note that our church has had only two members to hold the office of Clerk during its entire history: S. E. Absher, and J. E. Caudill; only three* people have held the office of Sunday School Superintendent: W. P. Horton, E. M. Blackburn, and D. E. Elledge. Many are the names of men and women whose faithful Christian service will be long remembered. Several of the former members of our church are now well-known ministers in Southern Baptist churches: Rev. Fred R. Poplin, Service pastor at the First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S. C.; Rev. Eugene Eller, pastor of the Crawford Avenue Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia; and Dr. Paul Caudill, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia. Also, numbered in the enrollment of our church at the present time are Rev. George W. Sebastian and Rev. J. F. Fletcher.

The present pastor of our church, John W. Kincheloe, Jr., began his ministry in North Wilkesboro on February 16, 1941. He had previously served churches at Emporia, Virginia, and in western Kentucky. A considerable number of new members has been added to the church roll during the present pastorate, and numerous improvements have been made recently on the church building and grounds. The

* Correction: Harvey Church was S. S. Superintendent for long term.
W. M. Absher and W. H. Horton were Church Clerks.

church is united in a fine spirit of fellowship, and all organizations are making steady progress. An optimistic spirit prevails as the church faces the Future. Debt-free, and mindful of the many-sided obligations of a great church toward the modern world, the First Baptist Church celebrates now its Fiftieth Birthday, and looks toward the Future with firm faith in God and with devotion to the work of God's Kingdom.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OFFICERS—1942

GENERAL OFFICERS

John W. Kincheloe, Jr. ..... Pastor
J. E. Caudill ..... Clerk
C. B. Lomax ..... Treasurer (Current Expenses)
E. E. Eller ..... Treasurer (Missions and Benevolences)
W. A. Bullis ..... Financial Secretary
Mrs. A. F. Kilby ..... Choir Director
Miss Ruby Blackburn ..... Organist
Miss Elsie Nichols ..... Assistant-Organist

BOARD OF DEACONS

A. H. Casey, Chairman

J. E. Caudill	Wade Wallace	C. B. Lomax
C. O. McNiel	H. L. Keller	C. B. Eller
Paul Haigwood	J. H. Whicker	Ed. Caudill
A. M. Church	W. K. Sturdivant	E. T. Hackney
Monroe Eller	John W. Hall	R. T. McNiel
Claude Canter	Ira D. Payne	Paul Billings
	J. Quincy Adams	

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

W. K. Sturdivant, Chairman

R. T. McNiel	John W. Hall	J. E. Caudill

TRUSTEES

A. F. Kilby	J. C. Reins	W. A. Bullis

USHERS

John W. Hall, Chairman

A. H. Casey	Ira Payne	Ancel Church
Claude Canter	Bill Johnson	R. T. McNiel
J. Monroe Eller	W. K. Sturdivant	Maurice Walsh
C. O. McNiel	C. B. Lomax	

BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE

Emmett Johnson	H. L. Keller	Mrs. Ed. Long
W. C. McNeill	Mrs. J. G. Chipman	Mrs. John Mitchell

LORD'S SUPPER COMMITTEE

Mrs. E. M. Blackburn, Chairman — Mrs. Paul Billings

HOUSE COMMITTEE

John W. Hall Chairman

C. O. McNiel	Mrs. C. O. McNiel	Mrs. Frank Tomlinson

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Claude Canter, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON NEW MEMBERS

Ira Payne
Claude Canter
Monroe Eller
Mrs. R. P. Casey
Mrs. R. T. McNiel
Mrs. Paul Billings

COMMITTEE ON BIBLICAL RECORDER

A. H. Casey, Chairman

SCOUT MASTER

Howard T. Clark

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

GENERAL OFFICERS

D. E. Elledge, General Superintendent
J. H. Whicker, Associate Superintendent
J. Q. Adams, General Secretary
Miss Elsie Nichols, Pianist
Miss Marie Eller, Assistant Pianist
E. C. Johnson, Song Leader

ADULT DEPARTMENT

J. H. Whicker, Superintendent
Mrs. Gillis Yates, Secretary

A. H. Casey, Teacher Berean Class
J. H. Whicker, Asst. Teacher Berean Class
Mrs. E. M. Blackburn, Teacher T. E. L. Class
Mrs. C. C. Kilby, Asst. Teacher T. E. L. Class
Mrs. C. B. Eller, Teacher Fidelis Class
Mrs. W. K. Sturdivant, Asst. Teacher Fidelis Class

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Claude Canter, Superintendent
Roscoe McNeill, Secretary

E. C. Johnson, Teacher Young Men's Class
C. B. Eller, Asst. Teacher Young Men's Class
Mrs. J. F. Fletcher, Teacher Euzelean Class
Mrs. W. R. Absher, Asst. Teacher Euzelean Class
Mrs. John W. Kincheloe, Jr., Teacher Ruth Class
Mrs. Homer Brookshire, Asst. Teacher Ruth Class

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

Miss Manie Brewer, Superintendent
Roscoe McNeill, Secretary

Teachers:

Miss Elizabeth Jones
Miss Edna Bullis
Mrs. Rufus Church
Mrs. Maurice Walsh

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Miss Lunda Hendren, Superintendent
Miss Nell Hall, Secretary

Teachers:

Mrs. Ethel Moore
Mrs. Alice Stafford
Miss Mary Parker Kelly
Miss Vivian Kerbaugh
Ira D. Payne
H. L. Keller
T. J. Frazier

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Ella Shockey, Superintendent
Miss Nell Hall, Secretary

Miss Marie Eller, Pianist

Teachers:

Mrs. T. C. Caudill
Mrs. K. M. Allen
Mrs. A. C. Dennis
Mrs. Maurice Walsh

BEGINNER DEPARTMENT

Miss Mary Nichols, Superintendent — Mrs. John Rhodes, Asst. Superintendent

Teachers:

Miss Ruby Blackburn — Mrs. S. L. Pardue

CRADLE ROLL DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Monroe Eller, Superintendent — Mrs. Bessie Patrum, Associate Supt.

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Mrs. D. G. Wiles, Superintendent

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION OFFICERS

General Director, Miss Mary Nichols — General Secretary, Ralph Church

General Pianist, Marie Eller — General Chorister, Lucille Casey

Baptist Adult Union President, T. J. Frazier

Young People's Union President, Miss Vivian Kerbaugh

Young People's Union Advisor, Mrs. R. T. McNiel

Intermediate Union No. 1 Leader, Miss Lunda Hendren

Intermediate Union No. 2 Leader, Miss Neta Blackwelder

Junior Union Leader, Mrs. John W. Kincheloe, Jr.

Story Hour Leader, Mrs. Monroe Eller

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OFFICERS

W. M. S. President, Mrs. A. H. Casey

1st Vice-President, Mrs. W. K. Sturdivant — 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. C. S. Sink

Young People's Leader, Miss Lunda Hendren

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Quincy Adams

Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. John Rhodes

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Stewardship Chairman, Mrs. John Rhodes

Mission Study Chairman, Mrs. W. F. Jones

Personal Service Chairman, Mrs. C. E. Jenkins

Music Chairmen, Mrs. C. S. Sink and Mrs. A. F. Kilby

Hundred Thousand Club Chairman, Mrs. J. N. Shockey

Bible Woman Fund Chairman, Mrs. J. N. Shockey

CIRCLE LEADERS

Mrs. C. C. Kilby — Mrs. Grady Nichols — Mrs. J. N. Shockey

Mrs. E. S. Cooper — Miss Manie Brewer

Y. W. A. COUNSELLOR

Mrs. Howard Clark

G. A. LEADERS

Mrs. Ray Barnes — Mrs. R. T. McNiel

Mrs. R. P. Casey — Miss Arlee Gilliam

R. A. LEADERS

Paul Haigwood — Bill Johnson — Carl Dennis

SUNBEAM LEADER

Miss Sallie Outlaw

We Love the Venerable House

We love the venerable house
Our fathers built to God;
In heaven are kept their grateful vows,
Their dust endears the sod.

Here holy thoughts a light have shed
From many a radiant face,
And prayers of humble virtue spread
The perfume of the place.

And anxious hearts have pondered here
The mystery of life,
And prayed th' Eternal Light to clear
Their doubts and aid their strife.

They live with God, their homes are dust;
Yet here their children pray,
And in this fleeting life-time trust
To find the narrow way.

Reprinted October 1992 On The
On The Occasion Of The
Hundredth Anniversary
Of First Baptist Church
North Wilkesboro
Nortii Carolina